

“RRAFT ADVISORY COMMITTEE”

MEETING # 8 MINUTES

Monday, January 7, 2008
6:30 – 9:00 PM
FWP Region 2 Office
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula

- **Opening, Recap and Agenda**

- *Charlie Sperry ~ FWP Recreation Management Specialist*

- Charlie opened the meeting and provided a recap of the discussion from the previous meeting. He summarized the discussion concerning recreation in river reach five with the following points:

- The upper portion of reach five (Roundup to Whitaker Bridge) does not receive as much use as the lower portion of reach five (Whitaker Bridge to Johnsrud) and should be managed for lower intensity use.
 - Lower reach five should be managed for higher intensity use with FWP remaining keenly aware of the need to protect river resources from being degraded.
 - Negative behaviors associated with higher intensity use must be addressed to ensure a safe and positive recreation experience.

Charlie then introduced the agenda for the meeting.

- **Committee Discussion – Special Recreation Permit (SRP) Group Sizes**

- *Charlie Sperry*

- Charlie acknowledged comments and questions from previous RRAFT meetings regarding the group sizes associated with the SRP program. He stated that the agencies would not be changing group size limits during this planning process. He described the extensive public involvement that led to the adoption of these size limits. He mentioned that the committee could recommend adjustments to SRP group sizes and that this information could be carried forward for consideration when the BLM updates its Resource Management Plan in 2010.

- **Small Group Discussion – Use at Access Sites and On the River**

- *Charlie Sperry*

- Charlie described exercises to direct two small group discussions, one focused on use at access sites in reach three (Harry Morgan and River Junction to Russell Gates) and the other focused on use on the river in upper reach 5 (Roundup to Whitaker Bridge). The discussions focused on the issue of overcrowding and whether management should accommodate large numbers of recreationists or prevent large numbers of recreationists. Charlie stated that FWP has not concluded that use limitations are necessary at this time but that it would be beneficial for the committee to identify management actions that could be considered if conditions were to reach a point where restrictions are warranted. He also referred to the Statewide River Recreation Rules and the requirement that FWP consider a range of alternatives and to implement less restrictive management actions before proceeding to rationing of use. Charlie referred to the statewide river rules for the definitions of *restrict*, *ration* and *allocation*, all terms associated with limiting use. The committee took time to ask clarifying questions pertaining to existing problem statements and management actions pertinent to their

assigned discussions before breaking into two groups. Both groups engaged in lively discussions that occupied the bulk of the meeting time. Both groups made progress but they did not have enough time to complete their discussions. They will continue their work at the next meeting.

- ***Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM***

NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 4, 2008

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

FWP Region 2 Office

3201 Spurgin Road

Missoula